

Amendments to the Specification

On page 15, please amend the first two paragraphs as follows:

Valve seat 161, as illustrated in FIGS. 1-4, is designed to make the primary valve seal when valve 100 is closed. In accord with the present invention, as shown in more detail in FIGS. 5-9, the valve seat 161 is designed to form a locking engagement with t-stem 160 when the two components are assembled. As such, the t-stem 160 has an internal opening 555 having the same shape as the top portion of the valve seat, and a slot or key-way 560 (which terminates in a circular opening 171 transverse to the longitudinal axis of the t-stem) separating two lower legs 550, 551 that allows the legs to bend outwardly to insert the valve seat.

Valve seat 161 has an upper portion 180 that fits into and engages with the corresponding opening 555 in t-stem 160 and a lower portion that forms the primary valve seal in the valve housing. The upper portion 180 also provides a land or shoulder area abutting legs 550, 551 of the t-stem. A cylindrical hole 565 is provided in the valve seat which allows the top of the valve seat to be pushed together for insertion into the key-way of t-stem 160. When the top of the valve seat is inserted into and engaged with the t-stem, the legs 550, 551 of the t-stem separate and then return to their original shape like a spring to lock the valve seat in the t-stem. The valve seat also may have one or more slots extending outwardly from the hole 565 in the valve seat to facilitate insertion into the t-stem. The particular configuration will take

into account the resilience of the materials used for the components.

The hole 565 also can have an alternative cross sectional shape.

Please delete the present Abstract and substitute the following Abstract having 149 words.

Abstract Of The Disclosure

A valve for a pressurized container includes a valve housing having a central bore and a port in the for connection of a nozzle. Preferably, the valve has a unidirectional stepped valve housing. In the housing is a central bore that includes an upper portion, lower portion and a middle portion. The lower portion is narrower than the middle portion which in turn is narrower than the upper portion. The port is provided in the middle portion of said housing to facilitate connection of a nozzle to the valve. The valve has a t-stem with a lower end having a key-way and a cavity for receiving the upper portion of the valve seat. The valve seat provides the primary valve seal when the valve is closed. The upper portion of the valve seat has a geometry for engaging the t-stem to provide a locked assembly.